Birds of a Feather

Many birds have the amazing ability to be able to fly! But not all birds fly the same way. Flying can help birds escape danger, catch their food, or travel far distances. Each type of bird has a certain wing shape and way of flapping their wings to fly. Scientists have learned about the rate at which different birds can flap their wings by measuring wing beats per second.

Use the chart below to compare the different speeds birds can flap their wings.

- Which bird has the **most** wing beats per 10 seconds? _____
- Which bird has the **least** wing beats per 10 seconds? _____
- Are the wing beats of a Gull **<**, **=**, or **>** to the wing beats of a Pigeon? _____
- Put in order which birds flap their wings the **fastest** to the **slowest:**

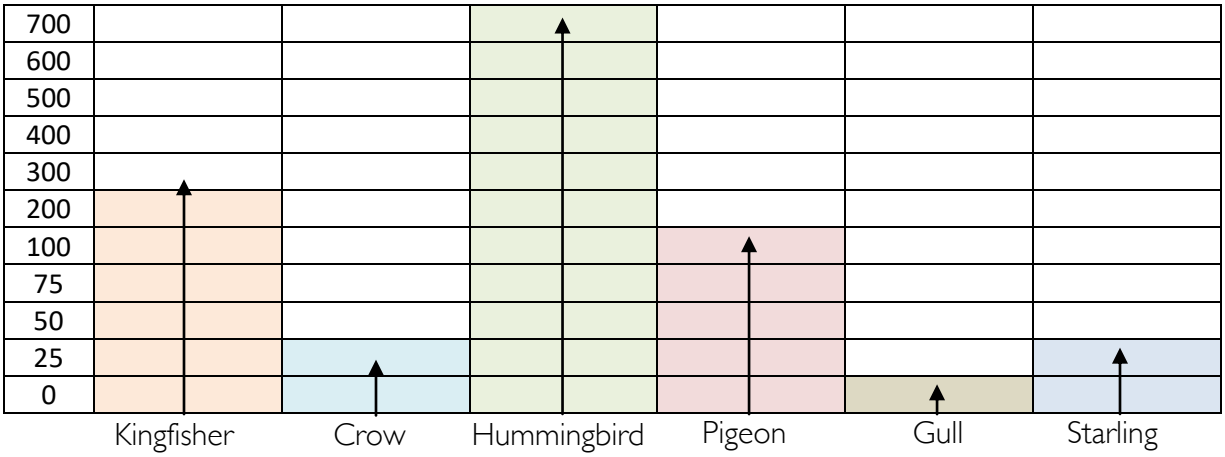
  _____

  _____
- Why do you think some birds flap their wings slower and some birds flap their wings faster?

  _____

  _____

Wing Beats per 10 Seconds



wildcare
76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901
415-453-1000 **www.discoverwildcare.org**

Birds of a Feather Answers

Many birds have the amazing ability to be able to fly! But not all birds fly the same way. Flying can help birds escape danger, catch their food, or travel far distances. Each type of bird has a certain wing shape and way of flapping their wings to fly. Scientists have learned about the rate at which different birds can flap their wings by measuring wing beats per second.

Use the chart below to compare the different speeds birds can flap their wings.

- Which bird has the **most** wing beats per 10 seconds? **The hummingbird has the most wing beats per 10 seconds.**

- Which bird has the **least** wing beats per 10 seconds? **The gull has the least wing beats per 10 seconds.**

- Are the wing beats of a Gull **<**, **=**, or **>** to the wing beats of a Pigeon? **The wing beats of a gull are < (less) than the wing beats of a pigeon.**

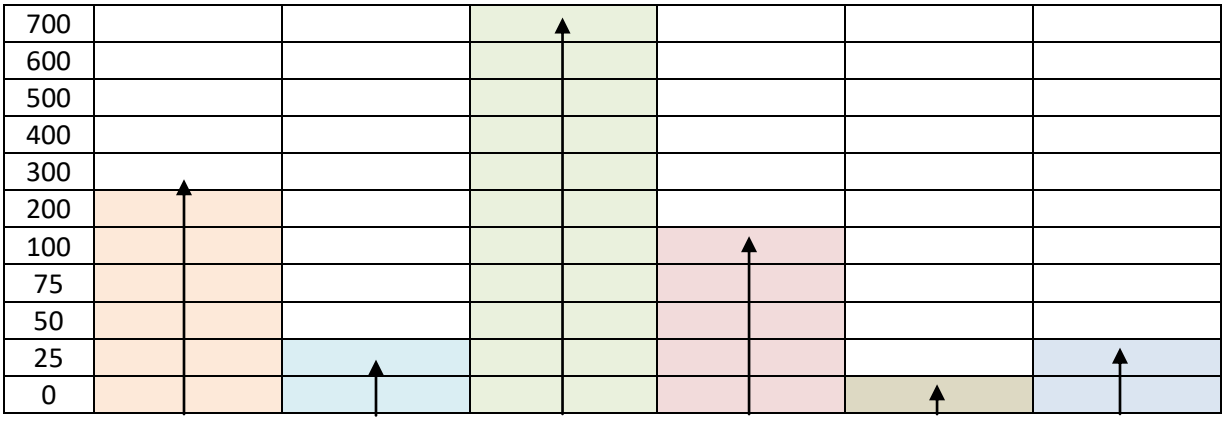
- Put in order which birds flap their wings the **fastest** to the **slowest:**

  Hummingbird – Kingfisher – Pigeon – Crow – Starling – Gull

- Why do you think some birds flap their wings slower and some birds flap their wings faster?

  Answers will vary. Fast rates may help birds maneuver and be more agile, whereas slow rates may help birds fly long distances while conserving energy.

Wing Beats per 10 Seconds



wildcare
76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901
415-453-1000 **www.discoverwildcare.org**